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RED WING AREA
CHAMBER
of **COMMERCE**

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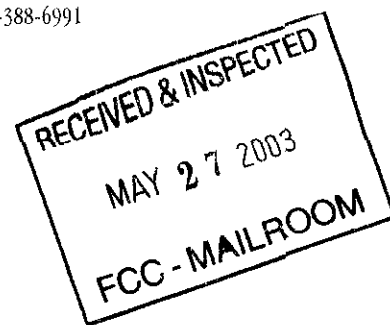
May 16, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
FCC
Office of Secretary
445 12th Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

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Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Red Wing Area Chamber of Commerce joins other Chambers in Minnesota in urging the Federal Communications Commission to approve Qwest's application to provide long distance service in Minnesota.

The Red Wing Area Chamber of Commerce supports Qwest's entry into the interLATA long distance business because of the benefits we believe would result. Research has shown that more long distance competition leads to lower rates. Further, increased competition results in better service. Finally, our hope is that increased competition will encourage telecommunications providers to make further investments in our area, which in turn will aid in our economic development efforts.

We understand that as part of the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, it was necessary for Qwest to prove that its network was open to competitors before they would be allowed to enter the long distance market. We also understand that Qwest has completed testing of their operations and performance and has shown that it has met those requirements. Therefore, we encourage the Federal Communications Commission to act quickly and judiciously in examining Qwest's compliance with Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act, and approve their application to provide long distance in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration of this timely and needed initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

Arne Skyberg

Arne Skyberg, President
Red Wing Area Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Senator Norm Coleman
Senator Mark Dayton
Representative John Kline